

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SAM-01 AF-06 /096 W

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P R 061636Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5531

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PT, ID, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE MILITARY DETAINEES ON TIMOR

REF: (A) 75 LISBON 7427 (DTG 151153Z DEC 75)

(B) 75 STATE 300208 (DTG 201903Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE INTERIOR MINISTER REQUESTED SENATOR KENNEDY'S
AND USG INTERVENTION ON QUESTION OF 23 PORTUGUESE MILITARY BEING
HELD BY UDT. I RECOMMEND WE MAKE A DIRECT APPROACH TO GOI. END
SUMMARY.

1. DURING JAN 2 CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR KENNEDY'S FOREIGN

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AFFAIRS ASSISTANT, ROBERT HUNTER, INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION

MINISTER ALMEIDA E COSTA ASKED IF US AND SENATOR COULD DO SOMETHING WITH INDONESIANS ABOUT 23 PORTUGUESE MILITARY BEING HELD PRISONER BY THE UDT IN TIMOR.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT JAN 5 CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, ALMEIDA E COSTA, A NAVY COMMANDER AND MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, EMPHASIZED AGAIN HIS REQUEST THAT USG HELP OUT ON PRISONER ISSUE. POLCOUNS EXPLAINED WHAT STEPS WE HAD TAKEN TO DATE (REFTELS).

3. COMMENT: OUR FAILURE TO USE OUR GOOD OFFICES ON THIS HUMANITARIAN POW ISSUE IS BECOMING NOTICED. IT COULD COME BACK TO TROUBLE US IN OTHER AREAS WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO EVOKE THE NATO RELATIONSHIP TO ENLIST GOP COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US. WHILE IT OBVIOUSLY IS NOT FOR US TO JUDGE, WE WONDER IF OUR RELATIONS WITH GOI ARE SO FRAGILE THAT WE DARE NOT RISK A DIRECT APPROACH ON A PRINCIPLE WE ESPOUSED SO VIGOROUSLY ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO. IF THEY ARE, PERHAPS WE CAN GET SENATOR KENNEDY TO CARRY THE MAIL FOR US.
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